

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0754

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BUFFUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS IN SC: BUFFUM-CLERIDES DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: DURING CALL BY ASST SECY BUFFUM MARCH 10, CLERIDES SAID HIS PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN EXPLICIT REFERENCE IN SC RESOLUTION TO SYG'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. NEW YORK VENUE DID NOT HAVE IMPORTANCE FOR HIM THAT IT DID FOR GOG. SO LONG AS SYG'S ROLE WAS DEFINED AS AT LEAST "PARTICIPATION," HE WAS AGREEABLE TO NEGOTIATIONS BEING HELD PARTLY IN NEW YORK OR ANOTHER CITY (THOUGH HE SAID VIENNA WAS INCONVENIENT), PARTLY IN NICOSIA WITH WECKMANN ATTENDING IN HIS CURRENT CAPACITY.

1. BUFFUM OPENED DISCUSSION BY EXPLAINING THAT SECRETARY HAD DECIDED TO VISIT ANKARA NOW BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF CYPRUS ISSUE, EVEN THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER RESUMPTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. BUFFUM SAID WE HAD WORKED HARD IN ANKARA TO BRING SIDES CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON SC RESOLUTION. IF IT TURNED OUT THAT AGREEMENT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, NEXT MOST DESIRABLE OBJECTIVE WAS TO POSTPONE ANY CONFRONTATION UNTIL AFTER SECRETARY HAD LEFT
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TURKEY.

2. BUFFUM CONTINUED THAT SECRETARY HAD TOLD FONMIN BITSIOS THAT US WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT A RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT POINTLESS FOR COUNCIL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION WHICH IT KNEW WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. WE REALIZE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT NEEDS A FRESH APPROACH, BUT WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS WITHOUT PRECIPITATING CONFRONTATION OVER ISSUE OF SYG'S CHAIRMANSHIP. CLERIDES SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS THAT SYG SHOULD CHAIR RESUMED TALKS. HOWEVER, HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO STATEMENT BY SC PRESIDENT MAKING IT CLEAR THAT NATURE OF SYG'S PARTICIPATION WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE PARTIES. ON MATTER OF LOCATION OF TALKS, FOR EXAMPLE, HE BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS COULD SOMETIMES BE HELD IN NICOSIA WITH WECKMANN IN THE CHAIR, SOMETIMES OUTSIDE NICOSIA -- NOT NECESSARILY NEW YORK -- WITH SYG PRESIDING. (THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLERIDES AND CARAYANNIS ON QUESTION OF VENUE, WITH GOG INSISTING NEW YORK MUST BE REFERRED TO IN SC PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT -- SEE SEPTTEL.) BUFFUM ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR SYG TO BE IN CHAIR FOR CONVENING OF NEGOTIATIONS, LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD LATER DO MUCH MORE.

3. CLERIDES REPLIED THAT IF HE AGREED TO RESOLUTION LIMITING SYG'S ROLE TO CONVENING TALKS, RESULT WOULD BE THAT WALDHEIM WOULD STEP OUT AND LEAVE CYPRIOTS BACK WITH SAME UN-PRODUCTIVE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS IN PAST. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES ASKED WHAT TURKISH OBJECTION WAS TO SYG'S CHAIRMANSHIP. BUFFUM SAID HE BELIEVED IT TO BE BASIC DISTRUST OF UN GOING BACK TO DAYS OF GALLO-PLAZA, COUPLED WITH EMOTIONAL REACTION STEMMING FROM LAST SUMMER'S NICOSIA AIRPORT INCIDENT.

4. BUFFUM CONTINUED THAT WHAT SECRETARY HOPED TO DO IS TO PLAY ROLE OF PULLING TOGETHER DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF A SOLUTION, SOMETHING THAT NO ONE IN TURKEY CAN DO AT PRESENT BECAUSE TURKISH POLITICIANS ARE COMPETING AMONG THEMSELVES. AS FOR SYG, WE SEE HIM PLAYING A HELPFUL ROLE IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS, ONLY IF PARTIES CAN AGREE ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF THAT ROLE.

5. BUFFUM WONDERED IF GOC COULD ACCEPT LANGUAGE ALONG LINES OF REQUESTING SYG "TO EXERCISE HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS AND

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CONTRIBUTIONS" TOWARD RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. CLERIDES REPLIED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOT TO ACCEPT ANY RESOLUTION THAT DID NOT GIVE CHAIR TO SYG. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE THOUGH HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HIS GOVT TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE PROVIDING FOR SYG "CONVENING AND PARTICIPATING IN RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS."

6. CHRISTOPHIDES ASKED WHETHER SETTING UP A COMMITTEE TO

IMPLEMENT GA RESOLUTION 3212 WOULD NOT BE A WAY OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE OVER CHAIRMANSHIP. BUFFUM SAID SUCH A COMMITTEE WOULD BE VALUELESS. IT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE AS HELPLESS AS GA COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES -- WHICH HAD NEVER SET FOOT ON OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

7. BUFFUM RETURNED TO RATIONALE BEHIND US SUGGESTIONS FOR SYG ROLE OTHER THAN CHAIRMANSHIP. IT IS NOT, HE SAID, BECAUSE WE ARE PRO-TURKISH (TO WHICH CLERIDES NODDED) NOR DO WE OPPOSE SYG CHAIRMANSHIP BECAUSE TURKS DO. ON CONTRARY, OUR POSITION IS THAT SYG SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN WHATEVER CAPACITY BOTH SIDES CAN AGREE IS USEFUL. BUFFUM CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT US WOULD PURSUE ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT AND SEE IF RUBRIC CANNOT BE FOUND WHICH LEAVES OPEN POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL SYG CHAIRMANSHIP OF NEGOTIATIONS. CLERIDES EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR ACTIVE US EFFORTS TO REACH COMPROMISE.
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